

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

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FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2460

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1076

FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM PRINCIPAL OFFICER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY PROTECTION

1. PHYSICAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS AT USINT BAGHDAD LEAVE MUCH TO BE DESIRED. OFFICE PREMISES ARE GENERALLY INADEQUATE AND WE HOPE TO MOVE TO MORE SUITABLE BUILDING WITHIN THREE MONTHS.

2. WHILE WE HAVE TAKEN ALL PRACTICAL STEPS TO IMPROVE SECURITY IN PRESENT OFFICES PRIOR TO MOVE, OUR PRINCIPAL PROTECTION LIES IN FACT THAT IRAQI GOVERNMENT HAS IMPOSED TIGHT POLICE STATE CONTROLS OVER ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE IN IRAQ. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT TERRORISTS COULD MOUNT AN OPERATION AGAINST USINT WITHOUT IRAQ'S EFFICIENT AND WELL FINANCED SECURITY AGENCIES FINDING OUT IN ADVANCE. IN ADDITION, MOST TERRORISTS GROUPS PROBABLY CONSIDER IRAQ TO BE ONE OF THE WORLD'S FRIENDLIER GOVERNMENTS AND IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WOULD WISH TO EMBARRASS IRAQI REGIME BY MOUNTING OPERATIONS AGAINST TARGET WHICH GOI HAS FORMAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROTECTING.

3. IRAQI REGIME WOULD BE QUITE CAPABLE OF SENDING POLITICAL "MESSAGE" BY ORGANIZING DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE OF USINT AND PERHAPSPERMITTING A FEW WINDOWS TO BE BROKEN. SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE TIGHTLY CONTROLLED, HOWEVER, AND WE DOUBT THAT REGIME WOULD PERMIT MOB TO THREATEN PERSONAL SECURITY OF DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE ACUTELY EMBARRASSING TO REGIME NOT ONLY IN TERMS OF MODERN DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE BUT ALSO IN TERMS OF TRADITIONAL ARAB STANDARD OF

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HOSPITALITY TO VISITORS AND SENSE OF OBLIGATION FOR THEIR

SAFETY.

4. IN MOVING TO NEW QUARTERS WE WILL OF COURSE ASK FOR SECURITY
SURVEY AND TAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO INSTALL PROPER
SECURITY SAFEGUARDS.

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